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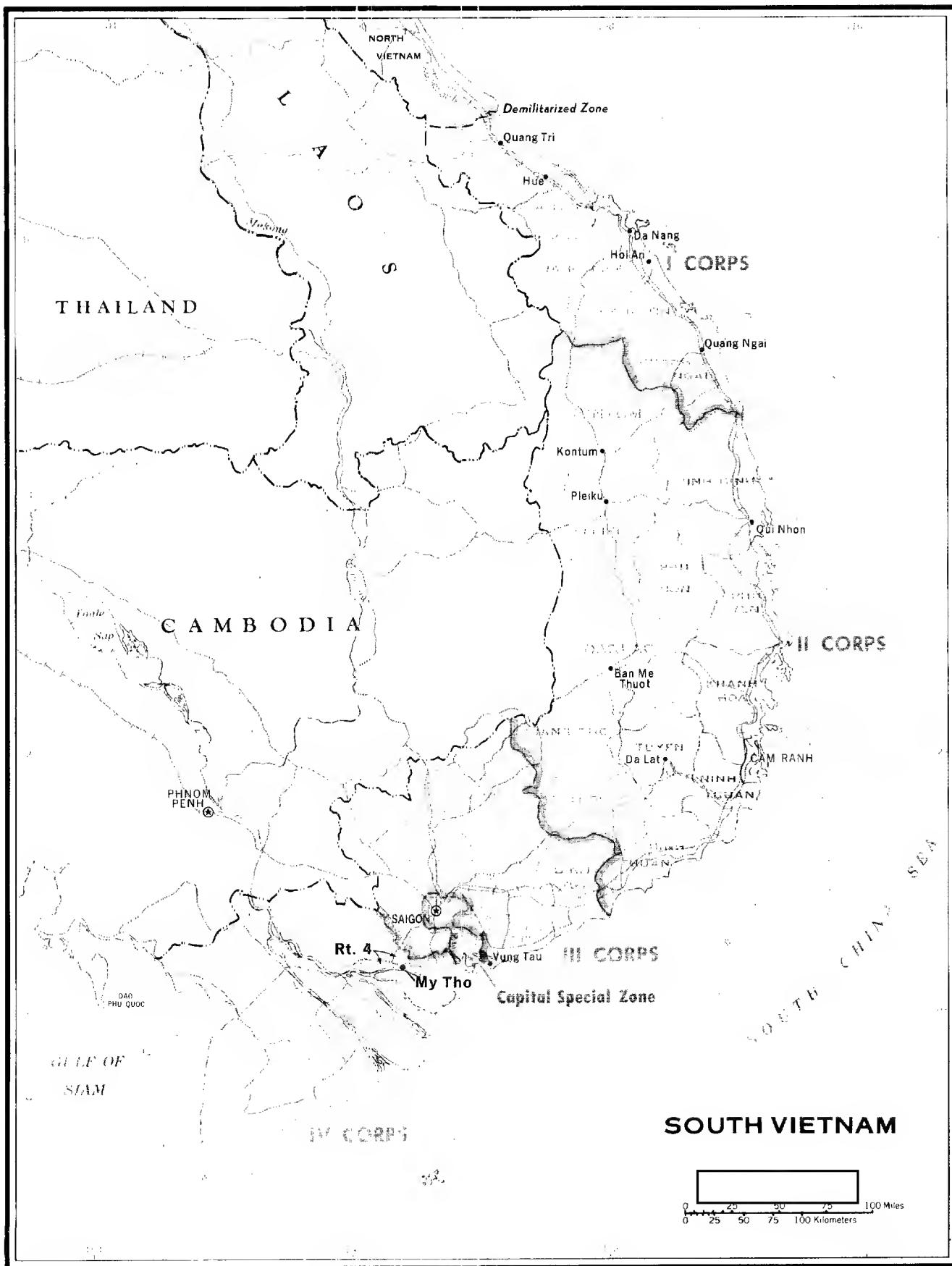
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[South Vietnam: Communist military activity has picked up during the past few days in the delta provinces.

Route 4 was cut in several places near My Tho on 17 June, suggesting a stepped-up enemy effort to close the strategic road, which links the delta with Saigon. In addition, a number of province and district capitals and allied military installations in the delta have been shelled since 16 June.

Elsewhere action has been light.

* * * *

Plans for launching a progovernment "Front of Fronts" are proceeding despite friction between its two potential leaders.]

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[a meeting of various organizations will be convened on or about 22 June to hear an address by President Thieu outlining his program for social action. The address will be followed by a prearranged endorsement of Thieu's program and government.

The new front will aim at a loose alliance of Huong's Democratic Freedom Force and Senator Tran Van Don's National Salvation Front plus a host of other political groups and factions. Huong has already voiced resentment over Don's unilateral attempt to launch the new organization prematurely, but he apparently remains confident that his closer ties to the President will enable him in time to undercut Don.] (Map)]

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[West Germany - Berlin: Bonn continues to search for an answer to the East German move against West Berlin.

Foreign Minister Brandt visited East Berlin yesterday at the invitation of Soviet Ambassador to East Germany Abrasimov, with whom he previously consulted when he was mayor of West Berlin. The two evidently talked at some length.

In West Berlin, Mayor Schuetz conferred with the Western Allied commandants and separately with Brandt, who had flown to the city for the second time in four days. Schuetz welcomed the West German pledge of increased economic assistance, but questioned whether the measures would be enough to sustain Berlin's viability. The commandants noted that Allied countermeasures are contingent on Bonn acting in this field.

The federal cabinet, in its meeting on 17 June, decided not only to increase economic assistance to West Berlin but also to reimburse travelers and shippers for visa fees and freight charges imposed by East Germany. The cabinet approved a proposal for applying additional restrictions on East German travel to NATO countries.

In West Germany divisions of opinion over how to handle the situation appear to have accentuated. Rainer Barzel, the leader of the Christian Democratic forces in the Bundestag, has termed the Western Allied protests "worthless." Chancellor Kiesinger, in a nationwide address, apparently has sought to mollify both the hard-line and soft-line factions within his government. He said that the East German challenge to Berlin would be answered "decisively," but also said that Bonn would not be provoked into dropping its policy of improving relations with Eastern Europe. The Chancellor related the Berlin access situation to the nuclear]

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nonproliferation treaty but stopped short of any threat to refuse to sign the treaty.

A Bonn official spokesman has downgraded the prospect of an early trip to Washington by Kiesinger. West German observers have reported a speedup in processing travelers on the autobahn. Western airlines which fly the corridors to Berlin are being sounded out on their capacity to increase service. Finally, the Bonn foreign office has drafted for Allied consideration a proposal that the activities of East German trade and travel offices in NATO countries be curtailed.

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France: Divisions are appearing in Gaullist ranks as the first round of the parliamentary elections approaches.

An open dispute has developed between the orthodox Gaullist party, now using the label of the Union for the Defense of the Republic (UDR) for purposes of the elections, and the Independent Republicans of Valery Giscard d'Estaing. Giscard has protested a UDR decision to field a candidate competing with his close associate, the secretary general of the Independent Republicans, who held a seat in the last assembly. If this disagreement is unresolved before the first round of voting on Sunday, 23 June, the arrangement between the two parties providing for reciprocal withdrawals on the second ballot could be endangered.

Although the Independent Republicans have voted consistently with the government, new doubts were raised over Giscard's loyalty when he recently called for the resignation of Premier Pompidou. Many UDR leaders now would like to end the government's dependence on Giscard by splitting off from the Independent Republicans a group completely pledged to De Gaulle.

Despite the unusual circumstances which led to the announcement of new parliamentary elections, the electoral campaign has failed to generate the level of public interest which has accompanied such events in the past. Few candidates have seriously discussed the basic issues, and the parties of the left appear to be resigned to a Gaullist victory. Many observers believe that elections, whatever the outcome, will do little to resolve the underlying problems which led to the recent crisis. [redacted]

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Warsaw Pact: The Pact commander, Soviet Marshal Yakubovsky, arrived in Czechoslovakia yesterday to assume control of the forthcoming command-staff exercise.

In an interview in Moscow on 17 June, Yakubovsky stated that activity would take place in Czechoslovakia, Poland, East Germany, and the USSR, and that it would involve units from these four countries and from Hungary. This is the first indication of East German involvement. A Czechoslovak Defense Ministry spokesman had claimed earlier this month that East Germany would not participate in the exercise.

The announcement of East Germany's inclusion, which has not yet been acknowledged by Prague, points up the ad hoc nature of the exercise. It is not clear whether the East German units involved will move into Czechoslovakia. [redacted]

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Malaysia: A serious Communist ambush of a police convoy appears to be an isolated incident.

On 17 June, the 20th anniversary of the beginning of the Malayan Emergency in 1948, an estimated 40-50 Communist "terrorists" ambushed a 50-man Malaysian police convoy close to the Thai border. The Ministry of Defense reported 15 police killed and 14 seriously wounded; Communist casualties were not reported.

This is the most serious clash between the Communist guerrillas and Malaysian security forces since the Emergency officially ended in 1960. The last incident of any significance took place in August 1966, when ten members of a joint Thai-Malaysian patrol were killed on the Thai side of the border.

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The Communist guerrillas are [redacted]

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[redacted] Located in safe areas on the Thai side of the border, they are engaged primarily in recruiting and training cadres and in propagandizing the local population, which is predominantly Malay and Chinese rather than Thai. They generally avoid contact with the security forces, and the attack on 17 June probably was meant as an anniversary "celebration" rather than the beginning of a new offensive. [redacted]

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Sierra Leone: The new government may severely limit the activities of the Peace Corps or ask it to leave entirely.

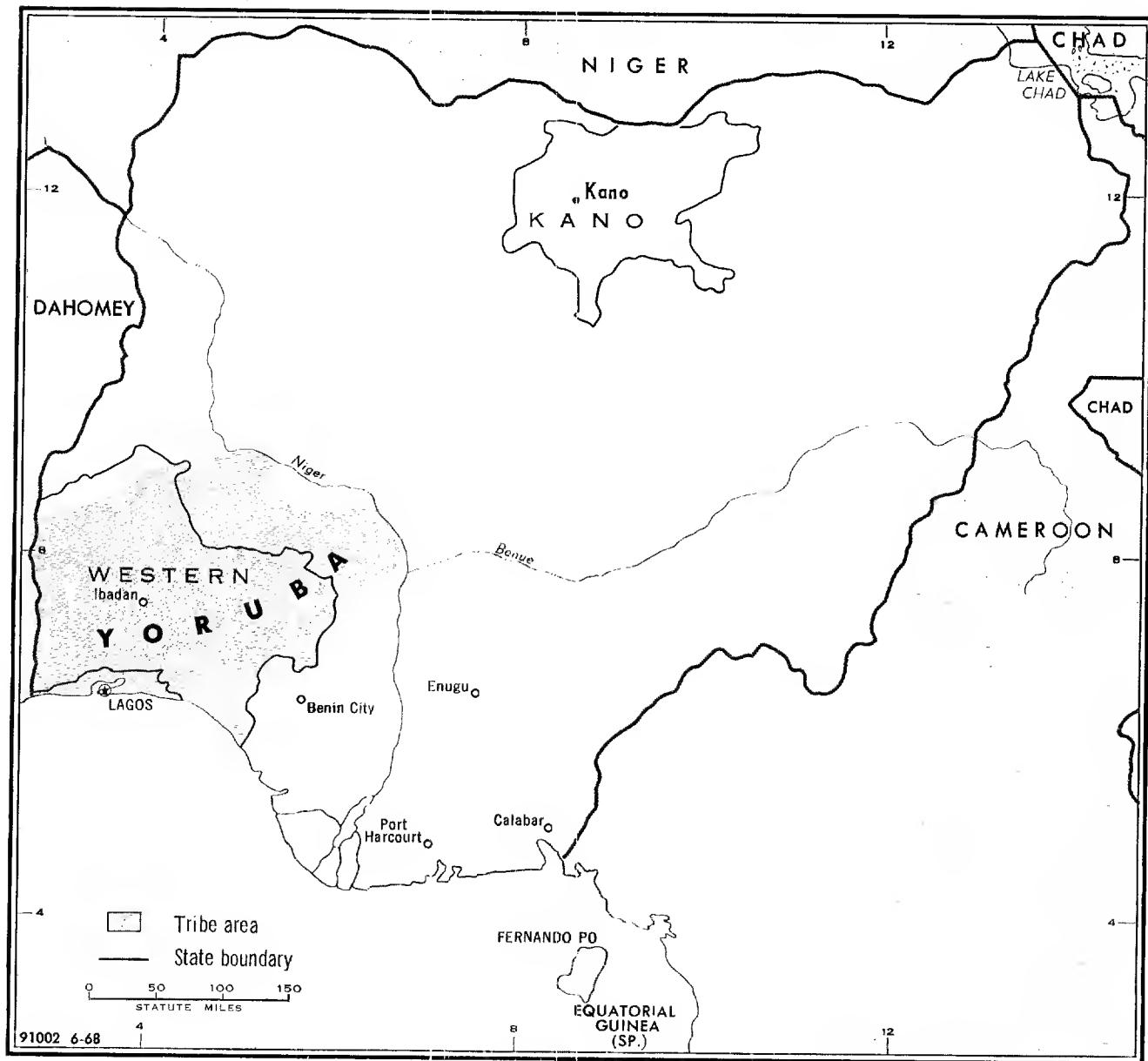
The cabinet is debating the future of the Peace Corps and is focusing particular criticism on the rural development activities of the volunteers. Prime Minister Stevens, who has become increasingly dependent upon the support of left-wing elements in his regime, reportedly has taken a position against the Peace Corps in the debate, along with several other ministers.

Stevens several times spoke against Peace Corps activities during his years as the opposition leader in parliament. On 12 June during an interview with the New York Times he complained of the Peace Corps' "arrogant" attitude and indicated that he was suspicious of Peace Corps activities, especially in the hinterland. Freetown's press, which has taken on xenophobic, antiwhite overtones, has viciously attacked the Peace Corps and has tried to link its work with intelligence activities.

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NIGERIA



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Nigeria: Violent incidents directed against Yoruba tribesmen from southern Nigeria may take place soon in some northern cities.

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[redacted] ex-tremist northerners plan to hold demonstrations and incite violence against the Yorubas late this month in Kano city. The Yorubas, who are mostly from the Western State in southern Nigeria, have taken over many of the jobs and occupations abandoned by the Ibos who were driven out of the North in 1966. Scattered attacks on Yorubas in northern Nigeria have occurred with some frequency since early 1967, and police have reacted several times to reports of planned anti-Yoruba incidents in urban centers.

The planned anti-Yoruba activities reportedly are being masterminded by Inuwa Wada, the ambitious former federal minister of defense and a hard-line northerner who has an ingrained dislike for all southerners. He has fostered the formation of political youth clubs, many of which the Kano State governor has banned, as well as groups of "ruffians" to be used in attacks on Yorubas.

The uneasy Yoruba community has communicated its anxieties to top state and federal officials, including head of state Gowon. A number of Yorubas have already returned to the West. Unless the federal army steps in to protect those remaining, northern animosities against Yoruba "strangers" easily could be inflamed by such men as Wada, who also would like to get rid of the Kano State governor. There could be ugly consequences for both the Yorubas and the stability of the Kano area, with the possibility of anti-Yoruba incidents spreading to other urban centers in the North.

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[redacted] (Map)

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Panama: Political tension has eased, but the makeup of the National Assembly is still in doubt.

Although the election took place over five weeks ago, only half of the votes for the assembly in Panama Province have been counted, and the count in Colon has not even begun. President-elect Arias is trying to rig the results in these two important provinces so that his National Union coalition will control the assembly. National Guard Commandant Vallarino, however, is pushing for his own political allies, apparently in an effort to strengthen his hand and to prevent Arias from dominating the legislature.

Arias and his principal aides believe that if the coalition's domestic programs and possibly a new canal treaty are to be passed by the assembly, at least a two-thirds majority--28 seats--is needed. Arias' coalition probably has only about 24 seats at present.

President Robles apparently has accepted Arias' victory, and is making plans to return to private life when his term expires on 1 October.

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Middle East: Crop-eating locusts have appeared in several countries in the Red Sea area. Swarms that have crossed from Saudi Arabia have been sighted along the Somali and Ethiopian Red Sea coasts and these may move into Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. Other swarms are building up in the eastern and northern Sudan. To fight the threat, Khartoum has appropriated \$717,500, a large sum in Sudanese terms. Locusts from Saudi Arabia are also moving toward Yemen and Southern Yemen and have invaded southern Jordan. Locust swarms which appeared in upper Egypt in mid-June were destroyed by Egyptian anti-locust units.

* * * *

Turkey: The student strike, now in its second week, has begun to take on political overtones but may be losing some of its steam. Nonstudent leftists apparently have entered the picture for the first time, and the major opposition Republican Peoples Party has called for a parliamentary inquiry into the boycott. During a march on Prime Minister Demirel's office yesterday, anti-American slogans reportedly were shouted by some of the demonstrators.

Government influence on the situation is limited because of the autonomous status of the universities, but the National Security Council has discussed the situation and Demirel has announced there is no cause for anxiety.

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Guatemala:

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Grumbling and plotting among the armed forces and disaffected extreme rightists have been continual since President Mendez' unusual show of authority over the military beginning with high-level officer shifts in late March. There have been recent indications of Communist plans to inaugurate a new wave of violence in the near future, but the relative inactivity of guerrillas and terrorists allowed for the lifting of the state of alert on 16 June.

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